

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SNM-02 /013 W
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R 051338Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7890
DEA HQS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 3538

EMB FOR DEA

DEA HQS PLS PASS MR. DURKIN/ENCC AND MR. BELK/IA

SUBJ: GENERAL FILE: PANAMA

UPON REOPENING THE PANAMA DISTRICT OFFICE, THIS OFFICE
BEGAN AN ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM DIRECTED AT UPGRADING
THE PANAMANIAN ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITIES. THIS PROGRAM
HAS FOUR PHASES:

PHASE 1 - REESTABLISHING LIAISON WITH KEY PEOPLE
IN GOP STRUCTURE WHICH HAD BEEN INTERRUPTED. PDO
NOW ENJOYS EXCELLENT RAPPORT WITH VARIOUS GOP
AUTHORITIES.

PHASE 2 - MAKING KEY GOP AND NATIONAL GUARD
OFFICIALS AWARE OF PANAMA'S NARCOTIC PROBLEM WHICH
THEY HAD IGNORED. THIS HAS BEEN DONE MINIMIZING
POLITICAL FACTORS AND GENERATING INTEREST
IN PANAMA'S ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS TRAFFIC.

PHASE 3 - PANAMANIAN TAKE INITIATIVE IN COMBATTING
LOCAL NARCOTICS PROBLEM. PDO HAS BEEN DIRECTLY
INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING THIS ABOUT. RECENTLY GENERAL
TORRIJOS INSTRUCTED DENI TO ARREST KNOWN NARCOTICS
VIOLATORS EVEN THOUGH THEY MIGHT NOT AT TIME OF ARREST
BE IN POSSESSION OF NARCOTICS. THESE VIOLATORS
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WILL BE TRIED AND SENT TO PRISON FOR PERIODS FROM
TWO TO TEN YEARS. PDO IS WORKING IN CONCERT WITH

DENI DIRECTOR, DARIO AROSEMENA, ON THIS PROJECT. NAMES
OF THOSE ARRESTED AND SENT TO PRISON WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

PHASE 4 - CAMPAIGN AGAINST INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKERS.
FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL ATTACK ON LOCAL TRAFFICKERS,
PANAMANIAN ATTENTION WILL BE DIRECTD TOWARD VIGOROUS
AND MORE INDEPENDENT ACTION AGAINST HIGHER LEVEL
INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKERS. WE FORESEE A CERTAIN
DEGREE OF SUCCESS FROM THIS PROGRAM. SAIC EDWARD A.
HEATH.
SAYRE

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